

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /079 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:LL
APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY
IO/UNESCO:RCHEATER
IO/HR:RTAUBENFELD
NEA/IAI:GKULICK
HA:RMMAXIM
IO/UNP:SESCUDERO
IO/UNA:CGRICE
IO/UCS:CCOLLOTON
IO/ML:WKRIEBEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306089

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT:UNESCO: PREPARATORY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON
DRAFTDECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

1. DEPT IS IN PROCESS OF REVIEWING ITS POSITION CONCERN-
ING PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT MEETING, WHICH HAS NOT YET
BEEN FIRMLY SCHEDULED BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN PARIS
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OR IN AFRICA IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH.
EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING UPDATE FROM GOI ON ITS
ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. UNESCO MEETING, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1976,
WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF MEMBERS' LACK OF INTEREST,
PROBABLY DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO DESIRE ON PART OF MANY

TO AVOID RISK OF FURTHER CONFRONTATION ON DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN UNESCO FORUM, FOLLOWING HARD ON HEELS OF UNGA'S ADOPTION OF RES. 3379 EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM.

3. ON THAT OCCASION U.S. PUBLICLY ADVISED UNESCO THAT WE WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN MEETING BECAUSE DRAFT DECLARATION HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE 1974 UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) AS "A CONCRETE MEASURE" IN UNESCO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UN DECADE AGAINST RACISM, WHICH WE HAD DECIDED TO BOYCOTT BECAUSE OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH RES. 3379. ISRAEL WAS NOT ONE OF MEMBERS THAT REPLIED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

4. DRAFT DECLARATION, WHOSE ORIGINS ANTEDATE 1974 GC, IS INTENDED AS CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF CLOSELY RELATED UNESCO INSTRUMENTS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION GOING BACK TO EARLY 1950'S. ACTUAL PREPARATION OF A DRAFT WAS MANDATED BY THE 1972 UNESCO GC, A YEAR BEFORE THE DESIGNATION OF THE UN DECADE.

5. WHILE THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT RES. 3379 OR SOME OTHER ANTI-ISRAEL ISSUE WILL NOT BE INJECTED INTO THE CONFERENCE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNESCO DG M'BOW (SENEGAL) PLANS TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE TIME, AND HIS PRESENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IF THE CONFERENCE IS HELD IN AFRICA, OFFERS ENCOURAGEMENT THAT ANY SUCH ATTEMPT COULD BE DEFEATED. COMBINATION OF M'BOW AND AFRICAN MEMBERS PROVED VERY EFFECTIVE DURING UNESCO GC IN NAIROBI IN FALL OF 1976 AND, FOR SIMILAR REASONS, COULD ALSO PROVE EFFECTIVE IN RELATION TO DRAFT DECLARATION, WHICH HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AMONG AFRICAN STATES. LATTER WILL HAVE CONTROLLING VOTE AT CONFERENCE AND WILL WANT DECLARATION TO USE AS ADDITIONAL WEAPON IN STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID. THERE IS THEREFORE GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT AFRICANS COULD AND WOULD REPEAT THEIR SUCCESS AT ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS IN AUGUST IN PREVENTING ARABS FROM INJECTING ZIONISM/RACISM AND RELATED ISSUES. AFRICANS CORRECTLY VIEWED SUCH EFFORTS AS DIVISIVE AND THEREFORE LIKELY TO GET IN THE WAY OF THE CONFERENCE'S ANTI-APARTHEID GOALS. CONVERSELY, LIKELIHOOD THAT AFRICANS (AND M'BOW) WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. NON-PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATORY MEETING AND WOULD DEEPLY RESENT IT IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND A MAJOR REASON FOR CURRENT REASSESSMENT.

6. ADDITIONAL IMPETUS FOR REVIEW HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY RECENT ACTION OF U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO,

WHICH, AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING LAST DECEMBER, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION URGING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF DRAFT DECLARATION. ON DECEMBER 1 OF THIS YEAR COMMISSION'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PROFESSOR THOMAS BUERGENTHAL (OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE CLYDE FERGUSON, LOUIS HENKIN AND LOUIS SOHN) SENT LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE URGING U.S. PARTICIPATION. THIS ACTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY FULL COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING LAST WEEK IN DETROIT.

7. ALTHOUGH PRESENT DRAFT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR US, SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. OBJECTIVES AND OTHERS COULD POSE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS. JUDGING FROM ITS RESOLUTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST MEMBERS OF U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES CAN BEST BE OVERCOME THROUGH EFFECTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE UNESCO CONFERENCE AND THAT THIS WOULD ALSO MAXIMIZE OUR CAPABILITY FOR OPPOSING ANY ANTI-ISRAEL INITIATIVES THAT MIGHT BE INTRODUCED. THERE IS ALSO THE FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE INCONGRUOUS FOR THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS RECENTLY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN ESPOUSING HUMAN RIGHTS IN UN FORUMS, TO BOYCOTT A CONFERENCE CONVENED TO PREPARE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON RACE AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ISSUED THUS FAR BY ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

8. SINCE THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT UNESCO MEETING COULD BE CONVENED AS SOON AS FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, DEPT. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR EMBASSY'S EARLY REPORT OF GOI VIEWS RE PARTICIPATING IN UNESCO CONFERENCE. VANCE

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